



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 02 2014

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Board President  
Hinds County Board of Supervisors  
Hinds County Chancery Court Building  
316 S. President St.  
Jackson, MS 39201

Tyrone Lewis  
Sheriff  
Hinds County  
407 E. Pascagoula Street  
Jackson, MS 39201

Pieter Teeuwissen  
Hinds County Board Attorney  
P.O. Box 686  
Jackson, MS 39205-0686

RE: Investigation of the Hinds County Detention Center

Dear Gentlemen,

The United States Department of Justice is commencing an investigation into conditions of confinement at the Hinds County Detention Center ("HCDC"), including both the Hinds County Detention Center (a.k.a. Raymond facility) and the Jackson Detention Center, pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 ("CRIPA"). Our investigation will focus on whether prisoners confined at HCDC are reasonably protected from harm that may result from prisoner-on-prisoner violence or use of force.

We have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of the investigation. During the course of the investigation, we will consider all relevant information, including any efforts the County may have undertaken to ensure compliance with federal law. When appropriate, we also may recommend ways to improve conditions at the institution. If we conclude that there are no systemic constitutional violations, we will notify you that we are closing the investigation. If, on the other hand, we conclude that there are violations, we will

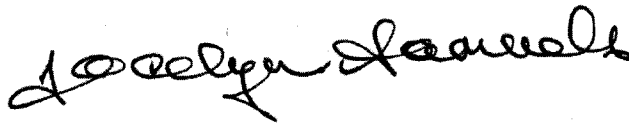
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inform you of the findings through a public findings letter and attempt to work with the County to remedy the violations. In our many years of enforcing CRIPA, good faith efforts of state, county, or local jurisdictions to work with us have routinely enabled resolution of any claims without resort to contested litigation.

We encourage the County to cooperate with our investigation. We will seek to minimize any potential disruption our investigation may have on the operations of the institution. Our Special Litigation Section will be handling the investigation and will contact your office to discuss the next steps. The Chief of the Special Litigation Section, Jonathan M. Smith, may be reached at (202) 514-5393.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jocelyn Samuels", written in a cursive style.

Jocelyn Samuels  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Sherri M. Flowers  
County Attorney

Carmen Y. Davis  
County Administrator  
Hinds County